



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2018

Meadowbank School  
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26 July 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

After the cold and wet July holidays we welcome everyone to a new term which will take us towards spring, warmer weather and longer days. A special welcome goes to the 9 new students and families to the Meadowbank team. We also welcome Jo Andrell - a new teacher who will be working with New Entrants in our Reception class.

**facebook**

This term we have launched a new official Facebook page for Meadowbank School.

Postings will be made every couple of days focussing on the many learning opportunities and experiences our students have. We encourage you to like our page

<https://www.facebook.com/Meadowbankschool>



## TEACHER STRIKE ACTION

In my last Newsletter I spoke about the teacher shortage which is being experienced - especially in Auckland. I also mentioned about teachers voting about accepting / rejecting the Ministry's pay offer. They overwhelmingly rejected the offer.

Teachers are now voting about possible strike action. Again this is likely to occur. When the Board of Trustees knows of this, they will decide about closing the school for the day. If it occurs it will be on **Wednesday, 15 August**. Start to make preparations - just in case.

Club Meadowbank is planning to offer a programme for the day. They will open bookings shortly and numbers will be limited.

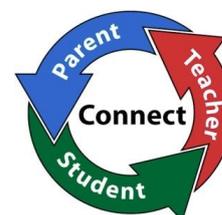


## Parent-Teacher Interviews

These are scheduled for next week, Tuesday, 31 July and Wednesday, 1 August.

If you haven't already booked a time to see your child's teacher please visit [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz) and use the code **a2feh**

Bookings close at **12noon on Tuesday, 31 July**. If you do not have access to a computer please contact the school office who will arrange a time for you.



## Term 3

You will be aware that our school wide concept for Term 3 is "**Sustainability**". Term 3 also involves many key events on the calendar:-

Senior Cross Country (Year 3 to 6)	14 August
Year 5 & 6 Zone Sports Field Day	21 August
Year 6 Production	5 & 6 September
Talent Quest Finals	10 September
Junior Cross Country (Year 0 to 2)	11 September
Visual Art Exhibition	18-20 September

### There are also many year level trips and visitor presentations:-

NE to Year 5	Royal Jelly Performers	24 July
Year 1	Okahu Bay trip	26 July
All School	Children's Author Chris Gurney	2 August
NE to Year 3	Dog Safety Programme	21 August
Year 3	Auckland Zoo	7 & 8 August
NE and Year 1	Corban's Art Centre	8,9 & 10 August
Year 4	Howick Historical Village	20 August
Year 6	Puberty Awareness Presenters	29 August
Year 5	Red Cross Visitors	17 September (all week)
Year 3	Scooter Safety Programme	23 September
Year 5	Depot Restaurant experience	Fortnightly

Each of these activities is funded by the **compulsory Excursion / Performance fee**. Most families have paid in full, but if you are paying by term, we appreciate your prompt payment.

### Assemblies for Term 3 include (starting at 2.15pm)

Pōwhiri	27 July @ 2pm
Room 21, 22 & 23	10 August
Room 12 & 13	24 August
Year 2 Parent Showcase	29 August
Year 6 Production teaser	31 August
Room 30,31,32	7 September
Room 6,7,8	21 September
Sustainability Presentation	28 September

### Formal Meetings:-

Board of Trustees	7pm Senior Staffroom 1 & 29 August and 26 September
Friends of Meadowbank	7.30pm 8 August, 5 & 25 September



### Learn to Code at Club Meadowbank

Is your child interested in computer programming? Whether it's to support school studies, for a career of the future, to create games or just for fun, join Code Champions on Mondays in Term 3.

There are eight weekly sessions, starting next Monday, 30 July. The cost is \$200 and a computer is provided during class time. Places are limited. Book now! <https://codechampions.nz/ms/> or for further information please contact Sheetal Lawrence - [slawrence@meadowbank.school.nz](mailto:slawrence@meadowbank.school.nz)

During the July holidays we had several contractors working on a range of projects:-

- > New carpet in Room 14 & 15.
- > Replace steps from Kelvin Road gate down to Room 5.
- > Clear spouting on the 2 storey buildings.
- > Arborists tidying up trees.

Progress on our proposed new Admin / Classroom block continues ...

- > We have received a masterplan design from the Ministry.
- > A series of design meeting dates have been set. With this done we will see what will replace the existing Administration building.
- > Concept plans for a much larger Senior car park have also been prepared.
- > I daren't mention a start date as we are already 2 years behind schedule. Expect nothing prior to Term 3, 2019.
- > The Board has also engaged Adams Architects to prepare a new 10 Year Property Plan. We expect that to be completed by the end of the term.
- > The Ministry has also provided a special one off grant of \$200,000 towards accelerating the modernisation of classroom environments. This won't go far and must be spent by November next year. Most likely projects will include either the John Boyens Blocks (Room 29 to 35) or the Theo Lynds Block (Room 17-19).

## Enrolments for 2019

We will be holding an **Enrolment Day** for students starting school next year on **Tuesday, 28 August**. Tours will be at 9.30am and 2pm commencing from the Senior Staffroom.

Where we know the names of children who are turning 5 (between December 2018 and 2019) we will be sending an enrolment pack out shortly. Knowing the names and start dates for our future pupils is important as it assists us with planning our future staffing, resourcing and pressurising the Ministry regarding future classroom requirements.

If you know of families with 4 year olds please ask them to contact Carlene in the senior school office  
☎ 520 3739 or ✉ [ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz](mailto:ccallinan@meadowbank.school.nz)  
to ensure their child's name is on our expected roll.



FRIENDS OF  
MEADOWBANK  
SCHOOL

### THANK YOU EVENING - 9 August

We invite parents who have helped out on many of the FOMS events this year to join us at 7.30pm on Thursday, 9 August in the Junior Staffroom for drinks and nibbles. We also invite parents who might like to get involved with FOMS for upcoming events.

### TASTY POTS SOUP

Last term we trialled soup for Year 5 & 6 students. We would like to be able to offer this again for the Senior School but will need volunteers on a Monday lunch time.

Please email us if you are able to help - ✉ [foms@meadowbank.school.nz](mailto:foms@meadowbank.school.nz)

### FRIDAY FOMS DAY - 24 August

Junior Staffroom morning drop in from 8.30am Parents are invited to come along for a coffee and tasty treat and to hear about what FOMS does.

# 20 YEARS AS PRINCIPAL

This significant milestone crept up so quickly. I am the second longest serving Principal in the Eastern Suburbs. The average tenure for Meadowbank's previous 14 Principals is less than 6 years.

Previously I had been Principal of Marina View School, a large decile 10 full primary (Years 1 to 8) school in West Auckland, and I had been Principal or Acting Principal in 4 other schools, starting with a 2 teacher school in North Otago. Meadowbank had a good reputation - I knew the school having been Deputy Principal and teaching Years 5 & 6 classes. But it was struggling financially. To move forward that needed to be addressed. We cut expenditure to match income, implemented bulk funding of teacher salaries, accepted international students, reviewed the school donation and explored the concept that led to Club Meadowbank.

Being in a strong financial position enabled us to make significant property developments, introduce new programmes and employ additional staff. In my time we have seen:-

- Redevelopment of the Junior Admin block.
- New Junior Classrooms - Room 6-11.
- New playgrounds on both campuses.
- New Hall.
- New Senior Classrooms (Room 20-28).
- New Library and Music Room.
- Garden to Table Room and Gardens.
- Pool heating and paving.
- Replacement of senior retaining walls.
- Installation of the computer network and subsequent upgrade.
- Mandarin classroom.
- Covered Court.

Probably the most significant property development was the opening of the Gully as a learning area. This was the genesis of our gaining national recognition for innovative programmes in Science and the subsequent Enviroschools and Garden to Table Programmes.

New programmes included Solo Taxonomy, Mandarin (Year 2-6), Te Reo, Robotics, the annual Talent Quest, Poetry Recitals, biennial Science Exhibition and links with overseas schools. We have introduced specialist teachers for programmes in Music, Physical Education/Sport, Mandarin, Te Reo, Robotics, Garden to Table and a full time Librarian. Our special needs programme is cutting edge employing 5 teachers and 6 Teacher Aides.

The roll in 1998 was a shade over 600. This year we will grow to around 840. Teacher numbers have more than doubled from 25 to 55, and total staff moved from 34 to around 75. Classrooms have gone from 25 to 36, not including our additional specialists rooms and teaching spaces.

Over the years there have been about 2500 pupils pass through. I have worked with numerous Boards of Trustees, including 8 Chairs. There have been 13 AP/DPs, 5 of whom have gone on to become Principals. Others have gained promotion, gone overseas and had babies.

The past 20 years have been an absolute privilege to lead such a fantastically professional group of educators. It has made my key role of removing obstacles to allow them to innovate and implement so easy.